cc A-H Rahman

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

19 May, 1986

Mr. Neil Hicks,
Middle East Reserach Dept.
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ.

Dear Mr. Hicks,

Thanks for your letter of 13 May, 1986 concerning the case of Dr. Abdul Rehman and 59 others who were arrested - after brutal police violence - from inside a mosque in Aswan last April.

I regret to have to inform you that press reports about the release of Dr. Rehman and others arrested with him are not true. The correct position is that the court had ordered their release but the authorities did not execute the court order. I can confirm that Dr. Rehman and all of the 59 other persons are still held in Kena prison; the court order notwithstanding. I am afraid that unless strong public pressure is built up, especially by international human rights agencies, the Egyptian authorities will continue to detain and harrass Dr. Rehman and others, under the emergency laws. I hope your organisation will do the needful.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH

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Salem Azzam
Secretary General
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13 May 1986

Dear Mr. Azzam,

Thomas Hammarberg passed on your letter to our department for reply.

We heard the news of the detention of Dr. Abdul Rahman in Aswan on 30 April 1986, together with a number of his supporters. We immediately contacted the Egyptian authorities to enquire about the reasons for these arrests, and to seek assurances that all the detainees were being accorded their rights.

We received press reports last week that Dr. Abdul Rahman, and others detained during the incident in Aswan, had been released.

Thank you very much for contacting us with this information. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you receive further information of concern to Amnesty International.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Hicks
Middle East Research Department

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity and the Organization of American States.

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

6 May 1986

Mr Thomas Hammarberg
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 8DJ

Dear Mr Hammarberg,

You will recall that on 7 October 1985 I, accompanied by Dr Abdul Halim Ramadan and Shaikh Hafiz Salama, met with you and with the head of your Middle East Section in connexion with the case of Dr Omar Abd Al Rahman. The repeated arrest and harsh treatment of Dr Rahman by the Egyptian authorities had so shocked the Egyptian people that Dr Ramadan and Shaikh Salama made a special visit to the UK to inform the outside world of it, in the hope that further excesses might be prevented. To refresh your memory I am enclosing a copy of our relevant press release and of Caroline Moorehead's column in The Times of 15 October 1985.

Unfortunately, Dr Rahman was arrested yet again approximately 8 days ago while he was on his way to deliver a lecture. (He is a University professor).

This latest arrest demonstrates once again the Egyptian authorities' disregard for human rights and must not be allowed to go unopposed. I am, therefore, inviting you to join us in the struggle to save Dr Rahman from further harassment and will greatly appreciate your efforts towards this end.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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